

# FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY

L. SNOW  
H. Johns  
Z. Kelly  
Paul Marshall

FEB 22 2006 000214

February 6, 2006

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*Chairman of the Board*

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Ronald D. Jacobsma  
*General Manager*

D. Zackary Smith  
*General Counsel*

Mr. Lester Snow  
Director  
Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

**RE:** South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Director Snow,

The Friant Water Authority (Authority) expresses support for the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) South Delta Improvements Program (SDIP), a critical environmental, water supply and water quality project. In reviewing the EIR/S, the Authority believes that the contemplated infrastructure improvements and improved flexibility to utilize existing infrastructure provides significant environmental and water supply and quality improvements. The Authority does have comments and questions regarding proposed future operations and the potential impacts to fishery and water quality objectives for the San Joaquin River that we believe require further analysis in the EIR/S. Specific comments in that regard will be submitted separately by the San Joaquin River Group Authority of which the Authority is a member agency.

The Authority operates and maintains the Friant-Kern Canal, a conveyance feature of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The Authority consists of twenty member water, irrigation and public utility districts receiving CVP water supplies from the Friant Division and/or as Cross Valley Contractors (pumped using State Water Project Facilities). The Friant Division of the CVP serves the agricultural water needs of some one million acres and 15,000 mostly small family farms on the east side of the southern San Joaquin Valley (Merced, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern Counties). Friant Division water supplies are also relied upon by several cities and towns, including the cities of Fresno, Orange Cove and Lindsay, as a major portion of their municipal and industrial water supplies.

Implementation of the SDIP taking into account San Joaquin River water quality standards, dissolved oxygen objectives in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel and operation of the Head of Old River gate to protect San Joaquin River salmon during migration reflects a responsible and balanced plan to better utilize and integrate our existing water management infrastructure in the Delta.

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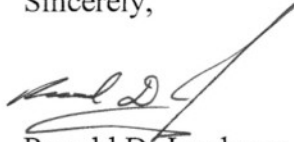
Member Agencies  
Arvin-Edison W.S.D.  
Delano-Earlimart I.D.  
Exeter I.D.  
Fresno I.D.  
Ivanhoe I.D.  
Kern-Tulare W.D.  
Lindmore I.D.  
Lindsay-Strathmore I.D.  
Lower Tule River I.D.  
Orange Cove I.D.  
Pixley I.D.  
Porterville I.D.  
Rag Gulch I.D.  
Saucelito I.D.  
Shafter-Wasco I.D.  
So. San Joaquin M.U.D.  
Stone Corral I.D.  
Tea Pot Dome W.D.  
Terra Bella I.D.  
Tulare I.D.

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Again, we support SDIP and encourage all key stakeholders to help advance this critically needed project.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ronald D. Jacobsma  
General Manager  
Friant Water Authority

cc: (via fax/email)  
Honorable Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Mr. Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency  
Mr. Ryan Broddrick, Director, California  
Mr. Joe Grindstaff, Director, California Bay-Delta Authority  
Mr. Kirk Rodgers, Regional Director, MP Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Friant Water Users Authority Member Districts  
Mr. Allen Short, San Joaquin River Group Authority  
Mr. Tom Birmingham, General Manger, Westland Water District  
Mr. Tim Quinn, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Water District of  
Southern California